

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen (U.S. Patent No. 5,915,205) in view of Williams (U.S. Patent No. 6,151,559), and claims 5-6 as being obvious over Chen in view of Williams and in further view of Izakson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,207,543). Claims 1, 3-7 are pending. Claim 4 has been amended to correct a numbering error as to dependency. Applicants respectfully traverses the rejections.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a Communication system, comprising: a network, one or more optical transmitters and that may be subjected to potential noise sources, wherein the communication system includes *an adaptive filter coupled between the potential noise sources and the at least one optical transmitter*, which filter has a cut-off frequency, dependent on the noise frequency, and a noise detector, wherein the adaptive filter (1) blocks detected impulse noise from passing upstream through the communication system, (2) enables prevention of clipping of the optical transmitter and (3) enables substantially undisturbed upstream communication above the cut-off frequency of the filter.

Applicants can find nothing in Chen, Williams and Izakson, alone or in combination that teaches, a communication system that includes “an adaptive filter coupled between the potential noise sources and the at least one optical

transmitter, which filter has a cut-off frequency..., as recited in independent claim 1.

Although, Chen teaches an adaptive filter, see col. 5, lines 15-18, it is not between the potential noise sources and the at least one optical transmitter. This adaptive filter is in the ingress canceller 218 in the Headend 202 and thus before the fiber node 206, where signals are modulated onto the optical fiber cable, see col. 5, lines 5-7.

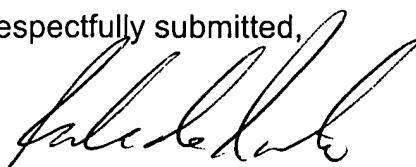
Still further, the Chen filter is used to correlate signals from an antenna 220 and signals from the subscribers of the cable system; and not to (1) block detected impulse noise from passing upstream through the communication system, (2) enables prevention of clipping of the optical transmitter and (3) enables substantially undisturbed upstream communication above the cut-off frequency of the filter, as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, as Chen, Williams. and Izakson, alone or in combination, do not teach, show or suggest all of the features of independent claims 1 and 7, as recited above, applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable over these references.

Other dependent claims in this application are each dependent from one or the other of independent claims discussed above and are, therefore, believed allowable and patentable for at least the same reasons.

The applicants have made a sincere attempt to advance the prosecution of this application by reducing the issues for consideration and specifically delineating the zone of patentability. The applicants submit that the claims, as they now stand, fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 103. In view of the amendments and foregoing remarks, favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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On November 24, 2004
By Rick de Pinho

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